

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 299513 TOSEC 320122

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 299513 TOSEC 320122

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM GENEVA DTD 09 DEC 1976 QTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9811

NODIS

DEPT PASS BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR AMB SCHAUFELE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: DEC 8 MEETING WITH NDHLOVU

1. EDWARD NDHLOVU, NKOMO'S LIAISON MAN, CALLED ON
ME AT THE MISSION AND ADDED HIS VOICE TO THE CHORUS
OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, THE NATIONALISTS AND OURSELVES
OVER THE MEANING OF POWER SHARING.

2. REFERRING TO AMB REINHARDT'S MEETING WITH
NKOMO, NDHLOVU REMINDED ME THAT NKOMO SAID HE HAD
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PAGE 02 STATE 299513 TOSEC 320122

UNDERSTOOD DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY

IN LUSAKA, THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A BLACK MAJORITY AFFAIR. HIS STUDY OF THE FIVE POINTS, SMITH'S INSISTENCE ON A FIRM CONTRACT AND THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT GENEVA EXISTED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING THE COUNCIL OF STATE, HAD LED NKOMO TO CONCLUDE THAT WE HAD NEGOTIATED AN INTERIM GOVT OF PARITY. THE COUNCIL OF STATE, WITH THE POWERS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO IT, WOULD EFFECTIVELY DOMINATE THE CABINET WHICH WOULD ACT AS LITTLE BETTER THAN "FLUNKIES." THE COUNCIL OF STATE WOULD CONTROL THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE EUROPEAN HALF OF THE COUNCIL WOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE CONSTITUTION ENTRENCHED WHITE POWER PERMANENTLY.

I REVIEWED CAREFULLY WITH NDHLOVU OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING POWER THROUGH A TRANSITIONAL GOVT TO A MAJORITY RULE GOVT.

I REMINDED HIM THAT WE SAW THIS PROCESS AS INEXORABLE AND THAT WE DID NOT FORESEE THE ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERIM GOVT WHICH WOULD GIVE EUROPEANS THE SAME POWER AS AFRICANS, OR WORSE - AS NKOMO SEEMED TO FEEL - A EUROPEAN EDGE.

3. NDHLOVU SAID THAT THERE WAS PERHAPS A MISUNDERSTANDING AND THAT MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT BE BASED ON THE DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES ASSIGNED UNDER THE BRITISH CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM TO BRITISH TYPE GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH. HE FELT IT WAS URGENT THAT WE CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING WITH NKOMO WHO WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION WE MIGHT NOT HAVE MEANT WHAT WE SAID TO HIM.

4. NDHLOVU INFORMED ME THAT NKOMO WILL SECRETLY TRAVEL TO LONDON ON FRIDAY WHERE HE WILL ADDRESS A MEETING OF HIS PARTY FAITHFUL. HE WILL RETURN TO GENEVA ON MONDAY, DEC 13. DURING HIS STAY IN LONDON, NKOMO WILL BE AT THE SAVOY HOTEL. ADVANCING HIS OWN THOUGHT, NDHLOVU SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY AND NKOMO TO MEET PRIVATELY AND SETTLE THE MATTER. I ASKED NDHLOVU IF HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM NKOMO. HE SAID NO; HE WAS ADVANCING SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 299513 TOSEC 320122

HIS OWN THOUGHTS BUT PLANNED TO CHECK WITH NKOMO. I TOLD NDHLOVU THAT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WAS CERTAINLY CROWDED AND THAT I FELT THAT IF THE SECRETARY AND NKOMO MET AND THE NEWS BECAME PUBLIC, IT WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. NDHLOVU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MY POINT BUT WISHED TO CONSULT WITH NKOMO. ALTERNATIVELY, NDHLOVU SUGGESTED A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY RESTATING HIS

COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND A TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT WITH A BLACK MAJORITY MIGHT SUFFICE TO
CLEAR UP THE MISUNDERSTANDING. CATTO
UNQTE ROBINSON

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